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(54) A method of manufacturing a conductive or superconductive thin film.

(57) A method of manufacturing a conductive or superconductive film comprises the steps of providing a powdered composition of complex oxide conductive or superconductive material represented for example by the general formula: $(La_{1-x}M_x)_yCuO_{4\delta}$, where M is an alkaline earth metals or mixture of alkaline earth metals; $0 < x < 1$, and $y = 1.5$ to 2.5 , adding an organic solvent binder to the powdered composition to form a kneaded paste, printing the paste on a substrate, and drying and firing the paste on the substrate to form a consolidated film.

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A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A CONDUCTIVE OR SUPERCONDUCTIVE THIN FILM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method of manufacturing a conductive or superconductive thin film, and to thin film manufactured by the said method.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Conductive materials are used for varistors, sensors, and the like, while superconductive materials are also used for coils and conductive wires (which show large electrical power losses), for Josephson elements or magnetic shield material, and the like, because they demonstrate zero electrical resistance, the Josephson effect, and full diamagnetism characteristics and the like.

Superconductive materials such as niobium-tin alloys (which have a critical temperature of 18°K), niobium-germanium alloys (which have a critical temperature of 23°K) and the like have long been known. The possibility of manufacturing superconductive bodies with high critical temperatures from complex oxides such as $(La_{1-x}Ba_x)_2CuO_4$ was suggested by Bednorz and Miller in 1986. Uchida et al confirmed in 1986 that these compounds had a higher critical temperature of about 30°C which had not previously been experienced. Since then, active research has been carried out on these and similar materials.

It was discovered by Kishio et al in 1988 that the composition $(La_{0.9}Sr_{0.1})_2CuO_4$ had a relatively high critical temperature of 37°K. Further, Professor Chu of Houston University and his colleagues discovered in 1988 complex oxide superconductive materials having high transition temperatures of 98°K, exceeding the temperature of liquid nitrogen. In particular, considerable interest has been generated in superconductive materials of a composition which can be represented by the general formula: $(La_{1-x}M_x)_yCuO_{4-\delta}$, where M is an alkaline earth metal or a mixture of such alkaline earth metals; $0 < x < 1$, $y = 1.5$ to 2.5 ; and $\delta = 0$ to 1 ; or by the general formula: $(N_{1-x}M_x)_pCu_qO_{7-\delta}$ where N is Sc, Y, or a lanthanide; M is an alkaline earth metal or a mixture of such alkaline earth metals, $0 < x < 1$, $y = 1.5$ to 2.5 , $p = 2.5$ to 3.5 , $q = 1.5$ to 3.5 , and $\delta = 0$ to 1 .

However, this type of complex oxide material is a variety of ceramic which has hitherto been obtainable only in powder form or as a fired body in bulk form, the fired body being obtained by using the powder as a raw material and, after forming the

powder into a bulk body under pressure, providing heat treatment at high temperature to consolidate the powder. For this reason, it has not been possible as a practical matter to use such complex oxide materials to form a Josephson high speed switching element for example, or an elongate conductor for use in various types of devices where it is necessary to provide the material in film form.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention therefore is to provide a method of manufacturing an electronic material, for example a superconductive thin film, using the above-mentioned complex oxide materials as a starting material, so that superconductive complex oxide materials can properly be utilized.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a method of screen printing and firing to form a thin film in which superconductivity is maintained even after the film is formed, whereby a conductive or superconductive film can be produced and a superconductive complex oxide material can easily be utilized.

In accordance with the present invention, a method of manufacturing a conductive or superconductive film comprises the steps of providing a powdered complex oxide conductive or superconductive material, adding an organic solvent as a binder to the powdered material so as to form a kneaded paste, and printing the paste onto a substrate before drying and firing.

Further features of the present invention are set forth in the appended claims and will become more apparent from consideration of the following description of exemplary embodiments given in conjunction with the accompanying drawing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig.1 is a graph showing the results of measurements of the electrical resistivity at low temperature of a thin film manufactured in accordance with a second example of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

For the avoidance of doubt it is to be noted that all references herein and in the appended claims to the Periodic Table and to specific Groups of the Periodic Table are to be understood to refer

to the Japanese Periodic Table and to the Groups thereof as described in the Iwanami "Physics and Chemistry Dictionary". As compared with the Group designations of the Periodic Table as described in "The Penguin Dictionary of Science" for example, which are the Group designations commonly accepted throughout Europe, Groups Ia, IIa, VIII, Ib, IIb and O are the same in the Japanese and European Periodic Tables, Groups IIIa, IVa, Va, VIa and VIIa of the Japanese Periodic Table correspond respectively to Groups IIIb, IVb, Vb, VIb and VIIb of the European Periodic Table, and Groups IIIb, IVb, Vb, VIb and VIIb of the Japanese Periodic Table correspond respectively to Groups IIIa, IVa, Va, VIa and VIIa of the European Periodic Table.

To satisfy the objects of the present invention, a method of manufacturing a conductive or superconductive thin film is provided wherein an organic solvent binder is added to powdered conductive or superconductive complex oxide material to form a paste which is kneaded, and then screen printed onto a substrate, then dried, and fired.

As the conductive or superconductive complex oxide material, many compositions can be used. For example, one type of complex oxide material which can be used has a composition represented by the general formula: $(La_{1-x}M_x)_yCuO_{4-\delta}$, where M is a member selected from the group of alkaline earth metals and mixtures of the alkaline earth metals, $0 < x < 1$, $y = 1.5$ to 2.5 , and $\delta = 0$ to 1 ; and another type of complex oxide material that can be used has a composition represented by the general formula: $(N_{1-x}M_x)_pCu_qO_{7-\delta}$ where N is an element selected from the group comprising Sc, Y and the lanthanides; M is a member selected from the group of alkaline earth metals and mixtures of the alkaline earth metals; $0 < x < 1$, $y = 1.5$ to 2.5 , $p = 2.5$ to 3.5 , $q = 1.5$ to 3.5 , and $\delta = 0$ to 1 .

As the organic solvent binder which is added to the complex oxide material and then kneaded to form a paste, solvents with a boiling point of 150°C to 200°C are preferably used, since they are easy to dry, have a certain degree of viscosity, and are easily printed. For example, octyl alcohol, propylene glycol, heptyl alcohol, and the like can be preferably used.

As a substrate, a material such as quartz, alumina, zirconia, or La_2CuO_4 for example which does not react with the conductive or superconductive complex oxide material and can withstand the firing temperature, can be used.

As a means for screen printing, any commercially available screen printing machine may be used, employing any usual methods.

A suitable temperature range for firing the material is 700°C to 1000°C .

Example 1

After slurring La_2O_3 , $SrCO_3$ and CuO in prescribed proportions in ethanol, the mixture was fired at 900°C for 16 hours.

The resulting $(La_{0.8}Sr_{0.1})_2CuO_{4.5}$ was then powdered, and 0.8ml of heptyl alcohol was added to 2 grams of this powder and mixed into a paste.

This paste was screen printed onto a zirconia substrate to form a thin film, using a commercially available screen printing machine. After drying under vacuum for 6 hours at 130°C , this thin film was fired at 1000°C for 10 minutes. The thickness of the resulting film was gravimetrically determined on the basis of weight increase to be 15 to $20\mu\text{m}$.

The electrical resistivity of the thin film was measured, and was seen to suddenly decrease at 42°K and become zero at 8°K .

Example 2

The material was formed in the same manner as in the first example.

The resulting $(La_{0.8}Sr_{0.1})_2CuO_{4.5}$ paste was screen printed onto an La_2CuO_4 substrate using a commercially available screen printing machine, and after drying under vacuum for 6 hours at 150°C , was fired at 1000°C for 10 minutes. It was then annealed at 500°C for 10 hours. The thickness of the resulting film was gravimetrically determined from weight increase to be 15 to $20\mu\text{m}$.

The electrical resistivity of the thin film formed in this manner was found to suddenly decrease at 43°K and become zero at 25°K .

Fig.1 is a graph showing the result of measurements made of the electrical resistivity at low temperatures of a film made in accordance with this second example, wherein the ordinate indicates the electrical resistivity in $10^{-3}\text{S}^{-1}\text{cm}$ while the abscissa indicates the absolute temperature in $^\circ\text{K}$.

In the practice of the present invention, other types of ceramic compositions can be used as the superconductive ceramic material. For example, the superconductive ceramic material may be consistent with the stoichiometric formula $(A_{1-x}B_x)_yCu_zO_w$, where A is one or more elements of Group IIIa of the Japanese Periodic Table, e.g. the rare earth elements, B is one or more elements of Group IIa of the Japanese Periodic Table, e.g. the alkaline earth metals including beryllium and magnesium, and $0 < x < 1$; $y = 2.0$ to 4.0 , preferably 2.5 to 3.5 ; $z = 1.0$ to 4.0 , preferably 1.5 to 3.5 ; and $w = 4.0$ to 10.0 , preferably 6.0 to 8.0 . Also, superconducting ceramics for use in accordance with the present invention may be consistent with the stoichiometric formula $(A_{1-x}B_x)_yCu_zO_w$, where A is one or more elements of Group Vb of the Japa-

nese Periodic Table such as Bi, Sb and As. B is one or more elements of Group IIa of the Japanese Periodic Table, e.g. the alkaline earth metals including beryllium and magnesium, and $0 < x < 1$; $y = 2.0$ to 4.0 , preferably 2.5 to 3.5 ; $z = 1.0$ to 4.0 , preferably 1.5 to 3.5 ; and $w = 4.0$ to 10.0 , preferably 6.0 to 8.0 . One example of the former formula is $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_x$ ($x = 6$ to 8), and examples of the latter formula are $\text{BiSrCaCu}_2\text{O}_x$ and $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_x$. In addition, the composition $\text{Bi}_4(\text{Sr}_y\text{Ca}_z)\text{Cu}_w\text{O}_x$ may be utilized for the purposes of the invention and its T_c is 40 to 60°K when the value of y is about 1.5 . The T_c onset and T_{co} of the composition $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_x$ is 110°K and 79°K , respectively. The value of x in the above formulae is estimated to be 6 to 10 , for example about 8.1 .

The stoichiometric formulae mentioned above can be determined for example by X-ray diffraction.

The following example is directed to the use of a composition using Group V materials as mentioned previously.

Example 3

Bi_2O_3 , SrCO_3 , CaCO_3 and CuO powders were mixed in a prescribed ratio and pre-fired at 800°C for 12 hours, so that two types of ceramic powder, $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_x$ (Powder A), and $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_x$ - (Powder B) were prepared. In addition, the previously mentioned oxide and carbonate raw materials were simply mixed in the atomic ratio of $\text{Bi}:\text{Sr}:\text{Ca}:\text{Cu} = 1:1:1:2$ to prepare a powder mixture (Powder C).

0.5ml of octyl alcohol were added to 1 gram of each of these powders together in an agate mortar and kneaded into a paste, then printed with a 150 mesh screen onto a variety of substrates, namely quartz, alumina, YSZ (zirconia stabilized with 2.5% Y), and SrTiO_3 monocrystals.

After drying under high vacuum for 3 hours at 120°C , these screen printed films were fired for one hour at a prescribed temperature between 830°C to 900°C . The film thickness was determined to be $10 \pm 2 \mu\text{m}$ after it had been fired.

Claims

1. A method of manufacturing a conductive or superconductive film comprising the steps of providing a powdered composition of complex oxide conductive or superconductive material, adding an organic solvent binder to the powdered composition to form a paste, printing the paste onto a substrate, and drying and firing the paste on the substrate to form a consolidated film.

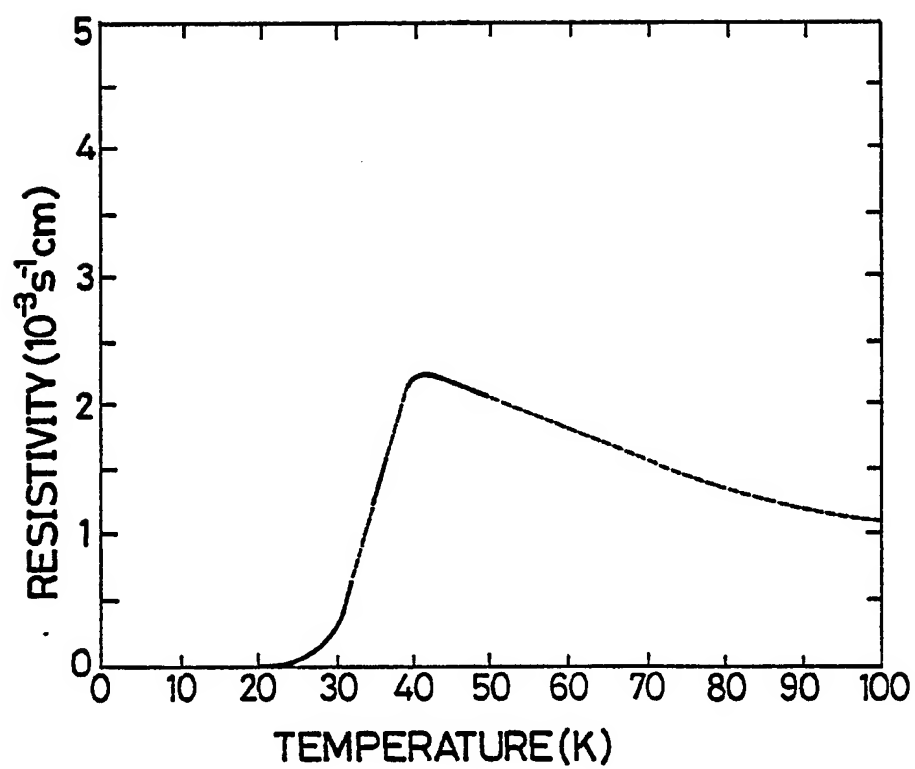
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition of the complex oxide conductive or superconductive material is represented by the general formula: $(\text{La}_{1-x}\text{M}_x)_y\text{CuO}_{4-\delta}$, where M is an alkaline earth metal or a mixture of alkaline earth metals; $0 < x < 1$, $y = 1.5$ to 2.5 and $\delta = 0$ to 1 .

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition of the complex oxide conductive or superconductive material is represented by the general formula: $(\text{N}_{1-x}\text{M}_x)_p\text{Cu}_q\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ where N is an element selected from the group comprising Sc, Y and the lanthanides; M is an alkaline earth metal or a mixture of alkaline earth metals; $0 < x < 1$, $y = 1.5$ to 2.5 , $p = 2.5$ to 3.5 , $q = 1.5$ to 3.5 , and $\delta = 0$ to 1 .

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition of the complex oxide conductive or superconductive material is represented by the general formula: $(\text{A}_{1-x}\text{B}_x)_y\text{Cu}_z\text{O}_w$, where A is at least one element of Group Vb of the Japanese Periodic Table; B is at least one element of Group IIa of the Japanese Periodic Table; and $0 < x < 1$; $y = 2.0$ to 4.0 ; $z = 1.0$ to 4.0 ; and $w = 4.0$ to 10.0 .

5. The method of any preceding claim, wherein the step of printing comprises screen printing.

FIG. 1





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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4) |
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| A | ZEITSCHRIFT FUR PHYSIK B-CONDENSED MATTER, vol. 64, no. 2, 1986, pages 189-193, Springer-Verlag; J.G. BEDNORZ et al.: "Possible high Tc superconductivity in the Ba-La-Cu-O system" * Pages 189,190 * | 1-5 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4) |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 22-06-1988 | Examiner LUETHE H. |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
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